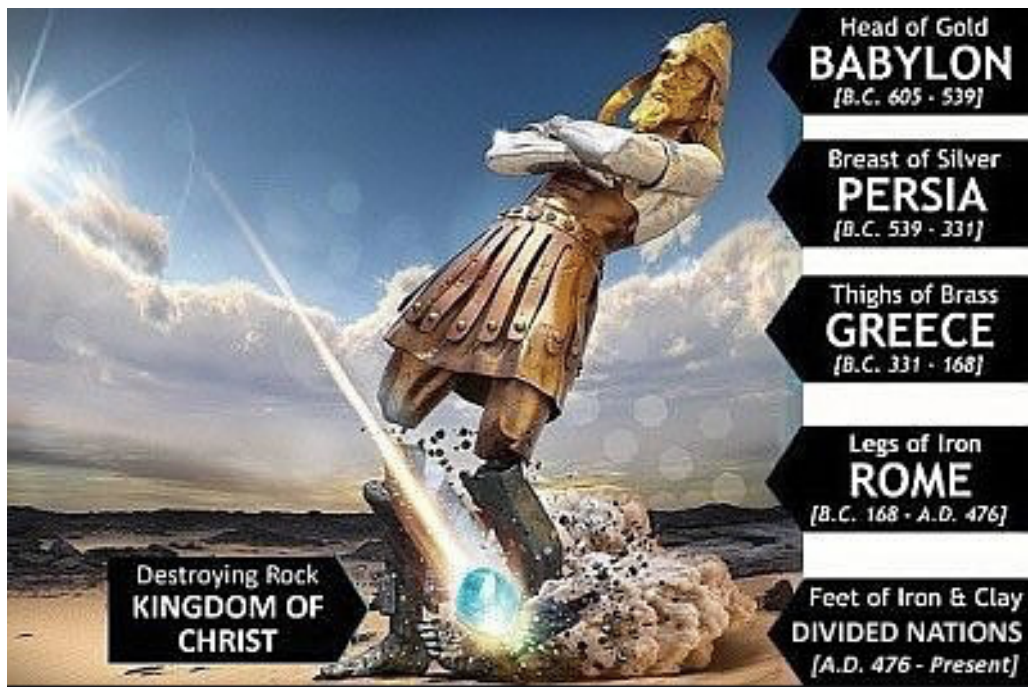


King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The Great Statue

“As you, O king, were watching, a great statue appeared. A great and dazzling statue stood before you, and its form was awesome. **The head of the statue was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, its legs were iron, and its feet were part iron and part clay.** As you watched, **a stone was cut out, but not by human hands.** It **struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them.** **Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time [all together] and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors.** The wind carried them away, and **not a trace of them could be found.** But **the stone that had struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth”** (Daniel 2:31-35).



The focus of this study of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream is understanding the imagery of the **destruction** of the great statue. The illustration is correct, the statue falls first from being struck at the feet of iron and clay, yet Biblical scholars often emphasize the fall beginning at the head.

From scriptures, the fall begins from a strike at the feet, which indicates that the statue remains a ruling single force until it is hit. Biblical scholars have identified the timeline correctly, with the beginning of this single ruling force with King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 605 B.C.. Different earthly rulers have taken the baton and continued its rulership all the way into the present. Though the earthly kingdoms collapse, the statue continues to remain upright because it is not earthly; it is a heavenly ruling force still at play over the nations on earth.

These heavenly rulers were given an inheritance by God at the time of Babel. Their inheritance was rulership over the nations. God participated in this division of rulership and took the descendants of Jacob as His inheritance; He ruled over them as their King (Deuteronomy 32:8-9).

The heavenly leaders given rulership over the nations, were teaching the earthly rulers God's way of governing their people. Early into receiving their inheritance over the nations, many of these heavenly rulers chose to rebel and join Satan in overthrowing God, including the honored and admired heavenly ruler over Assyria (Ezekiel 31). This opened Pandora's box again, fallen angels demanding worship from mankind. The kingdom of Babylon did not fall immediately, the heavenly leader remained faithful to God for some time, but to God's disappointment, He watched him fall too. During King Nebuchadnezzar's time, many nations had started worshipping their heavenly ruler and uncertainty of the true Creator, the one Supreme God spread like wild fire across the world. Soon, every heavenly ruler was claiming to be the true Creator.

The heavenly ruler over Egypt claimed to have created the Nile. "You say, 'the Nile is mine; I **made it** for myself'" (Ezekiel 29:3). Every nation on earth soon believed that their heavenly ruler was supreme. Through their rebellion, God was now having to prove His supremacy over His sons in the realm of heaven. Jesus being tempted by Satan was never enticed to join Satan in overthrowing the Father. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve **Him only**'" (Luke 4:8). Though it is taking time, God is bringing all of mankind to worship Him as He did with King Nebuchadnezzar.

Through the interpretation of dreams, King Nebuchadnezzar came to learn that the God of Israel is supreme, above the other gods ruling over the nations. Hence, he became the head of gold. Initially, the heavenly rulers over the nations were righteous, but unfortunately, over time their rulership like those they ruled, deteriorated into silver, then bronze, until finally they became so wicked that their rulership imaged the brute force of iron and at the end of the evil age, like the people, they will be nothing more than a mix of weak clay and cold iron.

Their reign over the nations on earth will come to an end. Christ is the rock, not made by human hands, who at the end of the age, will strike the feet of the great statue and destroy the leaders who kept the image upright for some three thousand years. They will be destroyed all at the same time, together and they will become chaff like the summer threshing floor.

These rulers cannot be referring to earthly rulers. King Nebuchadnezzar, the head of gold, turned to worship the Supreme God. At the return of Christ, he will not be resurrected to die the second death. His earthly kingdom under the rulership of his son, turned away from acknowledging the God of Israel as supreme and it was destroyed. Cyrus, ruler over Persia, the chest and arms of silver of the statue, also acknowledged the God of Israel as supreme over all gods. God spoke of Cyrus as "his anointed".

"This is what the Lord says to **his anointed, to Cyrus**, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him... I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so

that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by name... **‘I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor,** though you do not acknowledge me’” (Isaiah 45:1, 4) and “He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please” (Isaiah 44:28).

God has been battling these rogue heavenly rulers since they rebelled. The ancient earthly kingdoms are visible today lying in ruins buried in the sand. Their rebellious heavenly rulers are imprisoned in Sheol awaiting their destruction. “I [Almighty God] said, ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. But **you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler**” (Psalm 82:6).

Not all of these rebels have been overthrown. God promised the members of His heavenly court each an inheritance—rulership over the nations. Ten have not yet received their inheritance (Revelation 17:12). It is likely that these ten rebellious heavenly rulers will receive a kingdom in the last days when Satan is thrust down to earth with his rebellious following and they will divide the nations on earth into ten kingdoms, five in the north and five in the south. They will reign for “one hour” before their destruction in the fall, after the harvest.

At the time of a summer harvest when the grain is collected, the wicked heavenly and earthly rulers will be threshed, destroyed and no trace of them will be found. It will begin in a specific summer; the summer when God’s people repent, cry out to Him and bear righteous fruit—obedience to His ways.

Jesus said, “Now learn this lesson from **the fig tree:** As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door” (Matthew 24:32-33).

The fig tree images the people of Israel—all twelve tribes. Fig trees produce twice in a year. The first fruits appear in Spring and produce from the old branches—the Breba crop. The second fruits appear in Summer and produce from the new growth—the Higos crop.

Jesus is describing the crop from the new growth—the tender twigs. Watch for a conversion of the people of the nations of 21st century Israel during their captivity. They will call out to God for their rescue and declare their allegiance to Him and willingly obey Him. That is the lesson from the fig tree and the sign just before the return of Christ when he is right at the door.

Then Christ will return and overthrow the single coalition of Wickedness ruling over the nations and the earthly rulers with them.

These rebellious heavenly rulers, powers and principalities will be visible to mankind after Satan is thrown down to earth with his rebellious angels. They will no longer be able to hide. “And the **second beast performed great signs** to cause even fire from heaven to come down to earth in the **presence of the people**” (Revelation 13:13).

The kingdom created by God has already been awarded to Jesus Christ whose perfect righteous sacrifice bought him ownership of the nations and heavenly battles awarded him supremacy over the sons of God created before mankind in heaven. He is King of kings and Lord of lords and he will begin his reign on earth with the saints upon his return.

To Jesus Christ: “In my vision at night I looked, and **there before me was one like a son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. **He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed**” (Daniel 7:13-14).

To the saints: “**Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High.** His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him” (Daniel 7:26).

To the competing heavenly rulers: “This is the end of the matter” (Daniel 7:27).

The image of the great statue cannot be understood as only earthly kingdoms because the statue remains standing while the earthly kingdoms are overthrown. The great statue is a continuous reign by different heavenly rulers over earthly kingdoms. They are more than one as Daniel recorded, “It [the rock] struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed **them... the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold**” and “The wind swept **them** away without leaving a trace” (Daniel 2:34, 45, 35). They are a **series** of ruling rogue heavenly rulers. Their reign will persist until Christ destroys them.

The image identifies the Gentile kingdoms that God chose to give authority and world-ruling status.

The heavenly rulers were given an opportunity to prove their ability to rule righteously, but they have so far, all failed. Into the future, a “little horn” will rise up not to prove his ability to rule righteously, but to overthrow the Supreme God. From the eternal courtroom, God Almighty will take away his dominion and announce his destruction (Daniel 7:26).

The beasts that correspond to the earthly kingdoms are descriptors of their members and leadership style. Daniel 7 describes these beasts, which can be understood as:

The first beast:

- It was like a lion. Lions are often associated with royalty. Jesus is the lion of Judah. Sons of God are royal heavenly members of God’s ruling family.
- It had the wings of an eagle, which were torn off could mean that he lost his heavenly credentials of a son of God that allowed him special authority and ability.

Resurrected sons of God are portrayed by Isaiah as having the wings of eagles. “But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall **mount up with wings like eagles**; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

- Stood up like a man on two feet and given a heart of a man could mean that he lost God’s Holy Spirit and began to think and act like carnal man.

The second beast:

- Its head was like a bear. This heavenly leader is not a royal son of God, rather a member of the heavenly “beasts of the field”.

Mankind is unable to see into the heavens, so the creation there is a mystery. Only tidbits are fully understood. There is mention of beasts of the field and birds of the air throughout scripture that mean more than the animal kingdom on earth. Beasts glorifying God is a strange occurrence recorded by Isaiah.

“**The beasts of the field will honor Me**, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people” (Isaiah 43:20).

Also, Daniel described the vast dominion given to King Nebuchadnezzar by God. “You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed **mankind** and **the beasts of the field** and **the birds of the air**. Wherever they live, he has made **you ruler over them all**. You are the head of gold” (Daniel 2:37-38).

Man was given rulership over the physical fish, the birds and livestock in Genesis 1:26, yet King Nebuchadnezzar was given supreme rulership over the animal kingdom of the whole earth appears to be referring to a heavenly image more than an earthly one. Genesis 1:26 could also be mirroring a heavenly image.

- It raised itself up on one side likely means that it took authority to rule. Battles fought in heaven are not all known to mankind.
- Three ribs in its mouth could mean that it devoured three heavenly kingdoms and seeks to devour as many as it can.

The third beast:

- Like a leopard, this ruler is fast and unexpected. It camouflages itself well.
- It has four wings on its back, not the wings of an eagle; but still, wings—it has gained access to heavenly credentials, but not the credentials of a son of God.
- Four heads are four leaders who were given a dominion by God before they rebelled.

The fourth beast:

- A dreadful and terrible beast, exceedingly strong with iron teeth. This coalition has ten heavenly kings over seven ruling dominions. Collectively, they combine their powers into a single raging force with the sole purpose of the destruction of heaven and the capture of earth to overthrow Christ and God.
- It was different from the first, second and third beasts in that it knows this is their last chance for supremacy; they will fight to the end. The nations on earth will surrender without a fight. They will say, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against it?” (Revelation 13:4b)

That nations on earth will worship the beast and Satan ruling over it and decide to accept their rule forever. It will be as in the days of Noah, “so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, **people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage**, up to the day Noah entered the ark. And **they were oblivious**, until the flood came and swept them all away. So, will it be at the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:37-39).

The nations will have become so wicked that they cannot anticipate the return of Christ; they will be oblivious. God’s people who repent will be like Noah and be able to read the signs. They will have humbled themselves and cried out for their rescue from slavery from the nations. God will hear them and He will rescue them. This upcoming exodus will forever outshine the exodus out of Egypt (Jeremiah 16:14-15, 23:7-8). Again, the principal of the “first will be last and the last will be first” will be applied.

The two feet of clay and iron are two heavenly coalitions and earthly alliances fighting among themselves. No longer in heaven, the only home these rogue heavenly rulers have is earth. The people at the time of King Nebuchadnezzar knew more about the home of the gods than 21st century mankind. “No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and **they do not live among men**” (Daniel 2:11). Earth is not their home until they are thrust out of heaven.

Mankind will not be ready for their arrival nor will they fathom the magnitude of the final great battle on their turf where all they can do is watch—and watch they will, as the Supreme God rescues His people. While Christ and the resurrected saints battle the rogue heavenly forces, the God of Israel will raise up His repentant people and lead them as He did in ancient times into victory against the raging sea of nations bent on serving Satan over their Creator.

God’s kingdom awarded to Christ and the saints will eventually cover the whole earth and the kingdoms of rogue heavenly and earthly leaders will be crushed into fine dust and blown away never to be seen again. Daniel was given the prophesy, but Judo-Christians have today been given its meaning in time to prepare, drawing close to God and trusting Him, while standing strong in allegiance to the Supreme God, the sole source of life, power and glory—the God of Israel.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich